

INDEXA

INFORMATION
NET FREQUENCY
14.236 23:30Z



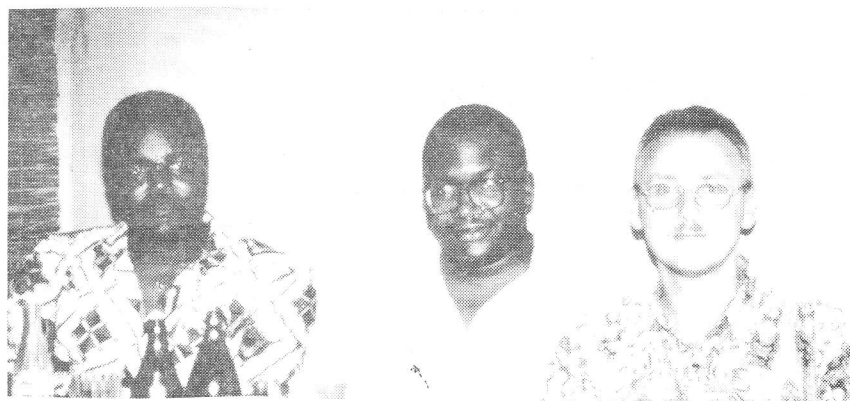
INDEXA

ISSUE 30
FALL 1994

A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace and friendship

TNØCW

CONGO ON THE AIR



L to R, Mr.Botoyeke(ONPT) Mr.Ewenque(ONPT) Rudi,DK7PE(TNØCW)

THE CONGO, TNØCW

"It is impossible" was the answer when I asked other DXpeditioners about the chances of getting an amateur radio license in the Republic of the Congo. I gave it a try anyway and sent the usual request directly to the appropriate authorities, the Office National des Postes et Telecommunications (ONPT). I never really believed in getting a positive response.

This was back in 1992. Exactly one year later I received a reply in which I was asked to mail a technical description of my equipment. After a second letter, in which I was promised a license upon my arrival, I started to become excited.

Yellow Fever and Malaria.... Several phone calls and a few fax followed. It was important to make sure the license would indeed be ready upon my arrival. Once, several years ago, I arrived in another African country where I was asked to come back after four weeks to pick up the license !! Little to no information was available about this exotic country in the center of Africa and I knew of nobody who ever visited Brazzaville. A yellow fever shot was a requirement and due to an extremely high malaria risk in all parts of the country, prevention was a must according to the department for tropical diseases in Hamburg.

After the main obstacle was overcome, the license, it took me a little more than two weeks to prepare the rest of the dxpedition. The only available flight to Brazzaville was via Paris and N'Djamena in the Republic of Chad. After more than twenty four hours in planes and airports, I finally arrived in Brazzaville the morning of July 8th, 1994. Obviously it wasn't usual to enter the Congo carrying 145 pounds of communications equipment. This really awoke the interest of the customs officers! "What is this, what do you need it for and what is the purpose of your visit", I was asked in french. I tried to explain, my french is even worse than my english, but finally, the letter signed by the General Director of the ONPT convinced him and with a piece of chalk he marked my suitcase "OK" or whatever it was, but I could pass !!

TNØCW on the air.... Mr.Ewenque(Le Chef de Bureau Reseaux Specialises et Exploitations Manuelles) [what a title !], the one in the ONPT who issues all types of private radio licenses in the Congo expected me already. The license was on his desk indeed and I only had to choose the call sign. TNØCW seemed to be a good choice, it was even the one I had hoped for. After installing the station in the PLM hotel near the banks of the Congo river, Mr.Botoyeke from the ONPT came for the technical inspection. Everything was ok and TNØCW started the first CQ call on 15 meters!!

Even though the manager of the hotel had no objections against mounting the antennas on the hotel roof when I called him from Germany, now he had! That was the reason why I could only operate 40 to 10m for the first few days. I had to use my vertical wire beam out the window!! It was unusual for me not to appear on the low bands and many stations asked me the big and often asked question "80?" or even "160?" !! "Sorry, no antenna yet!" was the answer. On July 10th, I tried to operate 80m for the first time using a random wire out of the window. This resulted in only a few 80m EU QSOs. Pirates obviously didn't have these kinds of antenna problems and activated TNØCW instead (themselves). What may have sounded like a "multi-national operation" was not ! On July 11th I finally fixed my 80m half wave sloper and "bang", it worked! This night I worked hundreds of JAs,EU and Ws and the next morning the 160m sloper was up !

Now Down to Business.... In the following days I could operate all nine HF bands with pretty good antennas. I was busy "playing the key" and it started to become real fun. I knew the Congo was needed but boy were those pile-ups just incredible and the largest I ever had ! Many times I was asked whether I could also operate SSB,RTTY or even 6m. Sorry, but this would certainly have brought my "One man DXpedition" beyond its limits. Besides, carrying 145 pounds to Brazzaville was already more than pleasure.

cont pg 2

TNOCW cont-

TNOCW closed down after one week of operation making 6000 contacts. There is still more than enough to do for future operations as the Congo might only have dropped down a few places in the most wanted lists. If anyone decides to go there, he can expect to have a great time on the radio and never ending pile-ups !!

The Congo Future?....Presently the government in the Congo wants to reopen amateur radio on a permanent basis. Therefore the ONPT is clearing the way for a faster application process which took two years in case of the TNOCW operation! While meeting Mr. Ewengue and Mr. Botoyeke daily, we established a very good relationship and talked a lot about amateur radio. I was asked to send them material about amateur radio in other countries. Especially french written "rules and regulations" would be of great help.

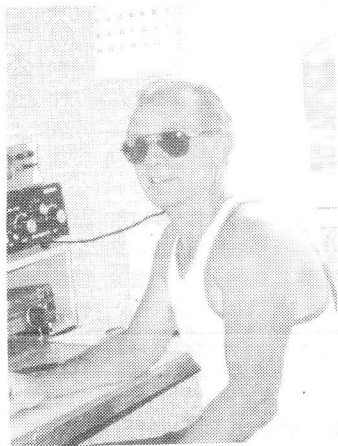
After arriving home, I informed Lou, PA0LOU, the IARU Region One representative about the positive changes in the Congo. Hans, ON6WQ, the president of STARS (Support to Amateur Radio Service) an IARU section to promote amateur in developing countries, soon sent me material about the recent Lesotho project. Now we have collected enough material for "first aid purposes" and I have sent a big letter with photographs, radio maps and other documents to the ONPT in Brazzaville. This will help them prepare the next step on their way to build the legal base for an amateur radio service in the Congo. There is still more work to be done as well as more assistance required. The door is now just opening.

Thanks.... When I was in Brazzaville, I met some very nice people there at the ONPT. I wish to thank Mr. Bissila, the General Director and President of the ONPT and to Mr. Bounzeki, Director of Telecommunications for signing the license. Thanks also to Mr. Ewengue and Mr. Botoyeke for helping me obtain all the needed permission and signatures that finally brought TNOCW on the air.

Rudi DK7PE

OFFICER PROFILE:

DIRECTOR: RON WRIGHT, ZL1AMO



I was licensed at the age of 16 in 1953 as ZL1AMO. I was introduced to radio by my Irish grandfather who had a habit of betting on the horse races. In an effort to hopefully win, he began to play around with radio receivers in order to beat the horse "bookies" (It worked most of the time). (ed note: fellows, this is an odd way of getting into radio, right)!

I came on the air in Oct 1953 with a home brew TX/RX made from surplus WWII parts. During this time I wasn't a serious DXer but enjoyed CW/AM DX on 80 metres.

About 1958 I got married and started a family. I had many different QTHs until I finally built my present home in 1960. I went through contest and DXing until 1964. At this time I gave up 10 years of baking bread and began a new life as a "taxi driver". I also gave up on DXing and took up golf!! It took about 6 years to rid myself of the golfing disease at which time I realized my house was falling apart from lack of care. I put my effort into my home and then later came back to ham radio. After taking care of the home place, I built my first TX/RX for SSB, which of course had to work CW also ! This was then my re-entry into DXing and contesting.

By 1978, I had reached the 300 DXCC level and had my first DXpeditioning experience with a group going to Chatham Island (ZL3HI/C) during the CQ SSB contest in October. The group was only interested in SSB, as a result, CW had to take a back seat. I decided then to never let this happen again.

My first real DXpedition was in April of 1979 when Chuck (ZL1ADI) and myself set off to Pitcairn Island as VR6HI. This was quite an adventure and probably got the ball rolling for me. In August of 1979, Chuck and I made our way to South Cook and then on to North Cook Island (Puka Puka/Danger Island). Both of these trips went very good although Chuck became very ill on Puka Puka and this was his last DXpedition. Since that time I have been very busy each year with many Pacific Island DXpeditions. This of course is with about 80% of the time on CW, the only way to do it!! You can tell by leaving only 20% of the operating time to SSB. Hi.

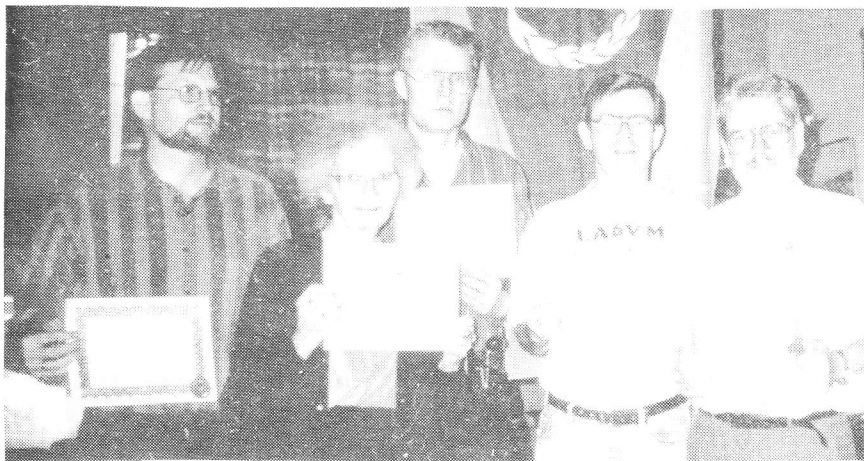
Besides the Pacific area, I have made two trips to the Indian Ocean. In 1986 it was VK9XI on Christmas Island and in 1987 I operated as VK9AB from Cocos Keeling. To date, I have put 25 countries on the air with many of them multiple times, Hi Hi.

I never tire of going on DXpeditions because there is always a need for a good CW contact from those chosen places. DX runs in my blood and its there to stay, but I have made a few changes in my life. In 1993 I sold a group of Ford Fairlanes and quit the tax' business for good. I hope to continue my trips to different "good" spots on DXpeditions for a few more years. In the meantime, I would like to thank one and all for the fine support I have received in the past, especially INDEXA.

W5VCS W6OSP N8WAK DE1RWZ I5NQG NL7TB KE3AY N7KZJ K5KR K1SRR K4KUZ WA5WEX JE3CYH
 DX2TAU AA7AV W5KFN AA7XA JH1OWW N8JSK JF1AGB VE3IQ W8CF WD6EYD YB2PBX JG0JLD
 NK7Y AA1GG KH6CD KH6DFW WA4FGY KG0DS KA3VIY IK4HAL KI4HN WA8HFS PT2FR KK4EZ
 IK5MIC WD0AFV W7WWS AB4JI ON7RN SV2BBJ DJ9ZB AND TO AH0W (ex AA7FM)

NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

WA4OBO K4KUZ I5NQG WA5WEX JE3CYH N2TLR KC0OS ON6SD KF0ZJ ON7RN KA2YEG SV2BBJ
 OK1DX K4MQG and YB2PBX


E35X ERITREA 1993 PRESENTATION

Norwegian DXpedition to Eritrea
 May 31-June 9, 1993.

The team and the QSL manager were presented with Indexa's **Certificate of Appreciation** at the annual LADXC DX convention by Indexa Director, Arne, LA8CJ..

L-R.. Just Qvigstad LA9DL, Ruth Tollefsen LA6ZH, Einar Enderud LA1EE, team leader Erling Wiig LA6VM and Halvard Eriksen LA7XK.

Photo by LA8CJ #93-3D



INDEXA receives letters from the world covering amateur radio from all walks of life. Some go deeply into subjects that don't pertain to our hobby except for the gain of one amateur. We are here to support the majority interested in our hobby. It may be a DXer, contester, an SWL, but mainly those groups who venture to those rare countries from time to time. Below we have presented part of a letter from Eddy Scherer from Essex, England. He was told "you can't join" but he did and all others are welcome. (ed.)

Dear Sir, I'm writing to you in reference to a note I received from John Parrott, W4FRU. He is QSL MGR for two stations I heard (ZD9BV & ZD7BJ) and his QSL card it showed your logo. In with the QSL I needed was a note from John and a membership application for INDEXA.

I did have your address some time ago and was going to write to see if I could become a member, but I was told that they thought membership would not be open to us here in England and also because I'm only a Short Wave Listener.. So that is why I did not write then. But my ARGUMENT is if people did not HELP FINANCE then they would not be able to take place and people would not be able to work them, be it hams or short wave listeners.

I then asked myself, should an SWL ride on the backs of hams (those that do help) ? We like picking up these DX stations so why should we not put something in the "kitty" to help pay for them. My hobby is trying to just hear these DX stations and the price of LIFE membership is not a lot to pay to keep your interest in our hobby. As they always say, "you don't get out for now't" and I myself am only an SWL but I believe that I should try to put something back into that HOBBY that has given me so much. I started listening in Jan.91 and so far I have 21 awards, a trophy and many pen-pals. Because of this, I think I owe the hobby a lot. I started with an Eddystone EC10 then got lucky enough to find a Realistic DX-302. It works so well that when a second came along, I got that one also...I must admit I like to hunt out the DX stations along with the out of the way call signs or the special event stations. So now you can see why I want to put something back into AMATEUR RADIO. You can't keep taking out of life without putting something back.

Enclosed you will find the completed application form for LIFE membership. I would like to have the logo rubber stamp and the lapel pin also. I hope all is OK and INDEXA membership can be made to me. If so, please do so with my call sign of B-RS 93500 and G-20297. May I wish you all the best and good luck. 73s Eddy Scherer, Essex, England.

INDEXA BALLOT 1994-95

Please vote for the nominees as approved by the Directors or use the write in space if desired.

| OFFICE | Nominee | Yes | No | Write in |
|-----------|---------|-----|----|----------|
| President | W4WMQ | | | |
| V-Pres | K4MQG | | | |
| Sec/Trea | W4UNP | | | |
| Directors | 1 Year | | | |
| | ZL1AMO | | | |
| | VK6RU | | | |
| | DJ9ZB | | | |
| Directors | 2 Year | | | |
| | VS6CT | | | |
| | K8CH | | | |
| V-Dir | 2 Year | | | |
| | WA9AVN | | | |
| | CE3GN | | | |
| | DL9SC | | | |

Please mail your ballot to the Election officer:

Bill Jennings W4UNP
630 Whitepine Drive
Catawba, SC 29704

International DX Association, Inc.® MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check One: ☐ New ☐ Renewal Membership # _____
Name _____ Call _____
Street or P.O. Box _____
City _____ State _____
ZIP Code _____ Country _____ (All mail to DX via Air)



Membership 1 Year (\$15 or 30 IRCs)..... \$ _____
Life Membership (\$150 or 300 IRCs)..... \$ _____
Life Membership in payments of (4x\$37.50 within 1 Year)..... \$ _____
"T" Shirt with Logo, S-M-L-XL (\$12 US, \$16 DX)..... \$ _____
Lapel Pin with Logo (\$5)..... \$ _____
Rubber Stamp with Logo (\$5)..... \$ _____
Donation..... \$ _____

Mail to: INDEXA - P.O. Box 607
Rock Hill, SC 29731 USA
All Prices Include shipping
Total \$ _____ (IRCs or US Funds ONLY)

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-765-4267

13424 Railway Drive
Oklahoma City, OK. 73114

Hours of Operation
M-F 9-6
Sat. 9-3

SUPPORT THOSE
THAT SUPPORT
"INDEXA"

CALL DOC'S for fast ordering and quick help

ICOM YAESU KENWOOD

And all your other favorite lines of Amateur gear
DOC'S COMMUNICATIONS
702 Chickamauga Ave.
Rossville, GA 30741
(706) 866-2302 or 861-5610

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE
with MOSLEY ANTENNAS

314-994-7872
10812 Ambassador Blvd. St Louis, MO 63132

PROLOG QSL ROUTE
NEW **MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**
PC Compatible with 34,000 routes,
built-in editor and QTH bearings
for \$20USD. Includes S/H. Six
route updates a year, add \$36.
DATAMATRIX 5560 JACKSON LOOP NE
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124 505-892-5669

QSLs by
FREE SAMPLES - STAMPS APPRECIATED
NOW \$24.95
1000 QSLs from
682 MT. PLEASANT RD., MONETTA, SC 29105
W4MPY

INDEXA
PO BOX 607
ROCK HILL, SC
29731 USA

FIRST CLASS MAIL

INDEXA NEWSLETTER

PLEASE CHECK YOUR
LABEL FOR EXPIRATION DATE